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J.R.

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09/010,490	01/21/98	HATA	K 177/527415

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EXAMINER	
SMITH, S	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3729

#21

DATE MAILED: 01/30/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

3729
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JAN 25 2001

GROUP 3700

To: Examiner Sean Smith - Room 5D31
Company Name: United States Patent & Trademark Office
Fax Number: ³⁰⁵⁻³⁵⁷⁹
703-808-7058
From: Michael S. Huppert
Date: January 25, 2001
Re: 09/010,490 - Hata et al.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES TRANSMITTED, INCLUDING COVER SHEET 5

Message:

Copy of Office Action dated May 11, 2000.

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Art Unit: 3729

DETAILED ACTION**FAX RECEIVED*****Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

JAN 25 2001

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1. ***The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:***

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. ***Claims 8-15 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.***

The general scope of the intended subject matter is not clear. The claims are drawn to a apparatus but applicant relies on the combination and subcombination of the operation of the apparatus. It is not clear if the applicant is relying on apparatus and the operation for prosecution of the invention. The examiner has taken into the consideration the present invention and has come to the conclusion that the applicant invention is pertaining to the apparatus.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. **The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:**

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claims 8-11, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dornes in view of JP403030499.

Regarding claims 8¹¹ and 18, 19, Dornes et al. discloses a component mounting apparatus comprising; a pair component supply tables (42,44) on which components (56,56') are accommodated and which are arranged on opposites sides of a board mounting station where a board (8) is positioned; a first mounting head section (38) for successively picking up the components at one of the components supply tables (column 4 ln 6-12) and thereafter successively mounting the picked-up component onto the board (column 4 ln 14-18); a second insertion head (40) for successively picking up the components at the other supply table and thereafter successively mounting the picked-up component onto the board. Dornes fails to show the mounting head movable in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the other mounting head. JP 403030499 discloses moving in a first and second mounting heads in a direction which are perpendicular to each other; wherein the first and second mounting head section are independently moveable between the component supply table and the board Fig 1

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Dornes and JP 403030499 to enable the mounting heads to be independently movable between separate workstation wherein the direction of the mounting heads are in opposite direction relative to one another.

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Regarding claim 9, where Dornes is relied upon as above, JP 403030499 discloses the first, second, third and fourth direction of the mounting head are moveable in two directions perpendicular to each other Fig 1.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of JP 403030499 to enable the mounting heads to move in a direction equal or different from one another wherein the direction are movable in a X,Y axis.

Regarding claims 10 and 11, Dornes et al discloses controller (49) for mutually controlling the first and second mounting head section in accordance with the timing at which, when one of the first and second mounting head section carries out a component picking up operation for picking up the component from the component supply table, the other of the first and second mounting head operation for mounting the pickup component onto the board.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5.. Claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dornes et al. in view of JP 403030499 and further in view of Oyama.

Regarding claim 12, Dornes discloses a mounting apparatus.. JP 403030499 discloses a component mounting apparatus having suction nozzles (17).Dornes and JP 403030499 fails to show the first and second mounting heads having a plurality of suction nozzles for sucking the

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components on at a time components at one time. Oyama discloses a plurality of nozzles mounted on a mounting head for picking up components on at a time. Fig 1

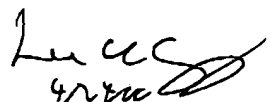
It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the mounting apparatus of Dornes, JP 403030499 and Oyama to provide the first and second mounting head section with nozzles to pick up the component from the supply table and insert each component into the board in order to realize the benefits thereof, that each suction nozzles exhibit safety characteristic to not damage the component. The exact amount of suction in the nozzles is deemed to be a matter of design choice.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sean Smith at telephone number (703) 305-0831.

S.S.

January 5, 1999


LEE YOUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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TOTAL P.05